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## **RED WING FAMILY YMCA NAMES BRYAN SOPER AS NEW Executive Director-CEO**

*Bryan Brings over 27 Years of Experience to Organization*

Red Wing, MN, 9/9/2021— The Red Wing Family YMCA has named Bryan Soper as its Executive Director-CEO, effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Selected by the Y's Board of Directors following a 9 month search, Soper will succeed Liz Flynn who has been acting as an Interim CEO since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 when Mike Melstad retired . In his new role Bryan will be responsible for continuing to make the Red Wing Family YMCA an indispensable community asset embodying the YMCA core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility for all.

Bill Simmons, Board of Directors Chair for the Red Wing YMCA said "Over the past 9 months we looked at many candidates from across the country. After narrowing our search down to the top 3 candidates, Bryan stood out among the rest. His energy and vision for the Red Wing YMCA is exactly what we were looking for in a leader. With Bryan's ground up experience spanning 27 years in multiple YMCAs across the country and his passion for strategic planning, employee development and community engagement, we are convinced that the Red Wing YMCA will have fantastic leadership for many years to come."

"I am extremely excited to join the team at the Red Wing Family YMCA and be a member of the Red Wing community. My family is looking forward to returning to the Midwest. After growing up in Western Wisconsin and working with the YMCA of the North in the Twin Cities it will be great to be back with family and friends. I grew up spending my youth at the Eau Claire YMCA playing a variety of sports and spending endless hours in the weight room with my friends. The YMCA was the home of my first job as a summer camp counselor. I was lucky enough way back then to realize the impact we had on the kids and I knew then that this is what I wanted to do for my career. I am honored to have this opportunity to serve a great YMCA in a great community." -Bryan Soper

Bryan comes to the Red Wing YMCA with over 27 years of experience in the non-profit world, currently serving at the YMCA of Middle Tennessee where he has been the Operations Executive Director for the past 2.8 years. While there Bryan has added new membership connection processes to meet member needs resulting in historic program growth. Prior to his role in Tennessee, Bryan has worked for a variety of YMCA's including the Valley of the Sun YMCA and the YMCA of the North. Bryan holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin—Stout and holds multiple YMCA leadership training certifications..

***About the Y***

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the U.S., 2,700 Ys engage 22 million men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background – to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. Anchored in more than 10,000 communities, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. [ymca.net](http://ymca.net)